



September 9, 2005

Ten-year sentence for a heroin-trafficking conspiracy

A federal judge has sentenced **Lonnie C. Gasperini**, of Pawtucket, to ten years in federal prison for heroin trafficking. In March, Gasperini admitted that he sold heroin to an undercover Providence Police detective on several occasions last year.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge Mary M. Lisi imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence.

At the plea hearing in March, Assistant U.S. Attorney Adi Goldstein said that the government could prove that, on eight occasions between June 25 and September 27, 2004, Gasperini sold heroin to an undercover detective. On each of those occasions, the detective called a pager or cell phone and Gasperini, either alone or with another individual, met the detective at a prearranged location in Providence to make the sale.

Gasperini sold quantities of heroin ranging from one gram for \$150 to nine grams for \$1,200. One of the sales, on August 24, took place on University Avenue near School One.

Gasperini pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute heroin, seven counts of distributing heroin, and one count of distributing heroin within 1,000 feet of a school.

A codefendant, Dennis Steven Batista, 29, of 89 Ralph Street, Providence, has pleaded guilty to heroin-trafficking charges and is detained pending sentencing.

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The **Providence Police Narcotics and Organized Crime Bureau** investigated the case, with assistance from the **Drug Enforcement Administration**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Goldstein is prosecuting the case.

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